

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for playing a media file in a portable computing device, comprising:  
2 receiving a first file portion in the portable computing device via a first  
3 communication channel, wherein the first file portion is unusable as a media file;  
4 receiving a second file portion in the portable computing device via a second  
5 communication channel, wherein the second file portion is unusable as a media file; and  
6 creating the media file in the portable computing device from the first file portion  
7 and the second file portion.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a second file portion in the portable  
2 computing device via a second communication channel further comprises:  
3 connecting a wireless transceiver on the portable computing device to the second  
4 communication channel to receive the second media file, wherein the second  
5 communication channel is a wireless communication channel; and  
6 disconnecting the transceiver on the portable computing device from the second  
7 communication channel once the second file portion has been received.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 playing the media file on the portable computing device; and  
3 deleting the media file once it has been played.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication channel is a connection  
2 between the portable computing device and a client computer, further comprising:  
3 receiving the first file portion in the portable computing device from the client  
4 computer; and

5           storing the first file portion on the portable computing device.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the connection is provided by at least one of a  
2   docking station or a synch cradle associated with the client computer and the portable  
3   computing device.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the first communication channel is a wireless  
2   connection between a transceiver on the portable computing device and a transceiver  
3   associated with a media file repository, the method further comprising:

4           transmitting to the media file repository a request for transfer of the first file  
5   portion; and

6           terminating the first communication channel once the first file portion has been  
7   received on the portable computing device.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein creating the media file comprises:  
2           examining sequencing information in the second file portion that describes where  
3   elements of the second media file should be placed within the first file portion to create  
4   the media file.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2           decrypting the first file portion using a key obtained from the second file portion.

1   9.   A method for preparing media data for transmission to a portable computing  
2   device, comprising:  
3           creating a first file portion by removing elements from a media file; and  
4           creating a second file portion from the elements removed from the media file.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2 placing sequencing information in the second file portion that provides  
3 information on where the elements removed from the media file should be placed in the  
4 first file portion to reproduce the media file.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 encrypting the first file portion using a key; and  
3 placing the key in the second file portion.

1 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2 transmitting the first file portion to a client computer configured to transmit the  
3 first file portion to the portable computing device.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2 storing the first file portion in a first data repository accessible to the portable  
3 computing device via a first communication channel; and

4 storing the second file portion in a second data repository accessible to the  
5 portable computing device via a second communication channel.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the second data repository is included within the  
2 first data repository.

1 15. A portable computing device comprising:

2 a media client configured to request a first file portion from a client computing  
3 device and configured to assemble a media file using the first file portion and a second  
4 file portion, wherein the first and second file portions are unusable as media files; and  
5 a first transceiver configured to receive the second file portion over a wireless

6 communication channel.

1 16. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to disconnect the transceiver from the wireless communication channel once  
3 the second file portion has been received.

1 17. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to play the media file and delete the media file from the portable computing  
3 device once it has been played.

1 18. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to examine sequencing information in the second file portion that describes  
3 where elements of the second media file should be placed within the first file portion to  
4 assemble the media file.

1 19. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to decrypt the first file portion using a key obtained from the second file  
3 portion.

1 20. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein media client is further  
2 configured to receive the first file portion from the client computer and store the first file  
3 portion in a memory on the portable computing device.

1 21. The portable computing device of claim 15 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to request the first file portion from a data repository over a wireless  
3 communication channel, the device further comprising:

4 a second transceiver configured to receive the first file portion over the wireless  
5 communication channel.

1 22. The portable computing device of claim 21 wherein the media client is further  
2 configured to terminate the transceiver's connection to the wireless communication  
3 channel following reception of the first file portion.

1 23. The portable computing device of claim 15, further comprising a memory for  
2 storing the first file portion.

1 24. The portable computing device of claim 23 wherein the memory is configured to  
2 be removable from the portable computing device.

1 25. The portable computing device of claim 23 wherein the memory is further  
2 configured to store the second file portion.

1 26. A media playback device, comprising:  
2       a first reception means for receiving a first file portion over a first communications  
3       channel, wherein the first file portion is unusable as a media file;  
4       a second reception means for receiving a second file portion over a second  
5       communications channel, wherein the second file portion is unusable as a media file; and  
6       a media assembly means for assembling a media file from the first file portion and  
7       the second file portion.

1 27. The media playback device of claim 26 wherein the second communications  
2       channel is a wireless communications channel, the device further comprising:  
3       a power saving means configured to disconnect the second reception means from  
4       the second communications channel once the second file portion has been received.

1 28. The media playback device of claim 26, further comprising:  
2 a playback means for playing the media file.

1 29. The media playback device of claim 28 wherein the playback means is further  
2 configured to delete the media file as it is played.

1 30. The media playback device of claim 26 wherein the media assembly means is  
2 configured to assemble the media file using sequencing instructions in the second file  
3 portion.

1 31. The media playback device of claim 30 wherein the sequencing instructions  
2 describe where to find information in the second file portion that should be placed in the  
3 first file portion to assemble the media file, the media playback device further configured  
4 to locate the information and place the information in the first file portion.

1 32. A media server for transmitting media data to a portable computing device,  
2 comprising:

3 means for creating a first file portion by removing elements from a media file,  
4 wherein the first file portion is unusable as a media file; and

5 means for creating a second file portion from the elements removed from the  
6 media file, wherein the second file portion is unusable as a media file.

1 33. The media server of claim 32, further comprising:

2 means for placing sequencing information in the second file portion that provides  
3 information on where the elements removed from the media file should be placed in the  
4 first file portion to reproduce the media file.

1 34. The media server of claim 33, further comprising:  
2       means for encrypting the first file portion using a key; and  
3       means for placing the key in the second file portion.

1 35. The media server of claim 32, further comprising:  
2       means for transmitting the first file portion to a client computer configured to  
3 transmit the first file portion to the portable computing device.

1 36. The media server of claim 32, further comprising:  
2       a transceiver configured to transmit the second file portion to the portable  
3 computing device.

1 37. The media server of claim 32, further comprising:  
2       means for storing the first file portion in a first data repository accessible to the  
3 portable computing device via a first communication channel; and  
4       means for storing the second file portion in a second data repository accessible to  
5 the portable computing device via a second communication channel.

1 38. The media server of claim 37 wherein the second data repository is included  
2 within the first data repository.

1 39. A media client for processing media files on a portable computing device,  
2 comprising:  
3       a first file manager configured to request a first file portion over a first  
4 communications channel, wherein the first file portion is unusable as a media file;  
5       a second file manager configured to request a second file portion over a second  
6 communications channel, wherein the second file portion is unusable as a media file; and

7        a media file reconstructor configured to reconstruct a media file from the first file  
8        portion and the second file portion.

1    40.    The media client of claim 39, further comprising:  
2        a media file player configured to perform the media file reconstructed by the  
3        media file reconstructor.

1    41.    The media client of claim 40 wherein the media file reconstructor is further  
2        configured to reconstruct the media file in media file sections and provide each  
3        reconstructed media file section to the media file player and wherein the media file player  
4        is further configured to delete media file sections once they are played.

1    42.    The media client of claim 39, further comprising:  
2        a transceiver controller configured to instruct a transceiver to disconnect from the  
3        second communications channel upon receipt of the second file portion.

1    43.    The media client of claim 39 wherein the media file reconstructor is further  
2        configured to examine the second file portion to locate sequencing data and wherein the  
3        media file reconstructor is further configured to use the sequencing data to locate data in  
4        from the second file portion and add the data to the first file portion to reconstruct the  
5        media file.

1    44.    The media client of claim 39 wherein the media file reconstructor is further  
2        configured to examine the second file portion to locate a key and wherein the media file  
3        reconstructor is further configured to use the key to decrypt the first file portion to obtain  
4        the media file.

1    45.    The media client of claim 39 wherein the first communications channel is a  
2        connection between the portable computing device and a client computer and wherein the

3 first file manager is further configured to send a request over the first communications  
4 channel requesting transmission of the first file portion.

1 46. The media client of claim 39 wherein the first communications channel is a  
2 wireless connection between the portable computing device and a media server and  
3 wherein the first file manager is further configured to send a request over the first  
4 communications channel requesting transmission of the first file portion.

1 47. The media client of claim 39 wherein the first communications channel is a  
2 wireless connection between the portable computing device and another portable  
3 computing device and wherein the first file manager is further configured to send a  
4 request over the first communications channel requesting transmission of the first file  
5 portion.

1 48. The media client of claim 39 wherein first file manager is further configured to  
2 store the first file portion in a memory on the portable computing device.

1 49. The media client of claim 39 wherein the first file manager is further configured to  
2 examine a memory on the portable computing device for at least one first file portion  
3 upon receipt of a request for at least one media file.

1 50. The media client of claim 39 wherein the second communications channel is a  
2 wireless connection between the portable computing device and a media server and  
3 wherein the second file manger is further configured to send a request over the second  
4 communications channel requesting transmission of the second file portion.

1 51. A computer program product for use in connection with a portable computing  
2 device to provide media data for execution by a media client associated with the portable  
3 computing device, the portable computing device including a memory configured to store

4 the computer program product, the computer program product comprising:  
5       a first file portion rendered unusable as media data by removal of a plurality of  
6 data elements; and  
7       a second file portion containing the plurality of data elements removed from the  
8 first file portion and sequencing information that explains where the plurality of data  
9 elements removed should be placed in the first file portion to produce a media file.

1 52. The computer program product of claim 51 wherein the first file portion has been  
2 encrypted and wherein the second file portion further contains a key that may be used to  
3 decrypt the first file portion.

1 53. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a portable  
2 computing device to play a media file when executing the instructions, the computer-  
3 readable medium instructions comprising:

4       receiving a first file portion in the portable computing device via a first  
5 communication channel, wherein the first file portion is unusable as a media file;  
6       receiving a second file portion in the portable computing device via a second  
7 communication channel, wherein the second file portion is unusable as a media file; and  
8       creating the media file in the portable computing device from the first file portion  
9 and the second file portion.

1 54. The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein instructions for receiving a  
2 second file portion in the portable computing device via a second communication channel  
3 further comprise:

4       connecting a wireless transceiver on the portable computing device to the second  
5 communication channel to receive the second media file, wherein the second  
6 communication channel is a wireless communication channel; and  
7       disconnecting the transceiver on the portable computing device from the second

8 communication channel once the second file portion has been received.

1 55. The computer-readable medium of claim 53, the instructions further comprising:  
2 playing the media file on the portable computing device; and  
3 deleting the media file once it has been played.

1 56. The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein the first communication  
2 channel is a connection between the portable computing device and a client computer, the  
3 instructions further comprising:

4 receiving the first file portion in the portable computing device from the client  
5 computer; and  
6 storing the first file portion on the portable computing device.

1 57. The computer-readable medium of claim 56 wherein the connection is provided by  
2 at least one of a docking station or a sync cradle associated with the client computer and  
3 the portable computing device.

1 58. The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein the first communication  
2 channel is a wireless connection between a transceiver on the portable computing device  
3 and a transceiver associated with a media file repository, the instructions further  
4 comprising:

5 transmitting to the media file repository a request for transfer of the first file  
6 portion; and

7 terminating the first communication channel once the first file portion has been  
8 received on the portable computing device.

1 59. The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein instructions for creating the  
2 media file further comprise:

3       examining sequencing information in the second file portion that describes where  
4 elements of the second media file should be placed within the first file portion to create  
5 the media file.

1 60. The computer-readable medium of claim 59, the instructions further comprising:  
2       decrypting the first file portion using a key obtained from the second file portion.